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NATIONAL HOSPITAL DAY.

The suggestion that a National Hospital Day be established and celebrated annually on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, pioneer in modern hospital and nursing methods, has swept the country since it was first suggested, 40 States and 4 Canadian Provinces having organized for it. President Harding has warmly approved the suggestion, and Surg. Gen. Cumming has written the following letter in regard to it to M. O. Foley, who originated the idea:

I heartily approve the suggestion that May 12 be designated annual National Hospital Day, on which special efforts shall be made to diffuse information concerning hospitals.

The public naturally lacks information on many points in regard to hospitals. For instance, although everyone who has tried to rent a house or who reads a daily paper knows that there is a marked shortage in buildings, few people realize that this shortage is particularly marked both in hospitals and in buildings that can be converted into hospitals. Most people, indeed, think that nearly any building can be made over into a hospital.

Such beliefs are due, of course, to lack of information in regard to the essential requirements of both the site and the construction of a hospital building. The site, for instance, must have surroundings that are sanitary both in summer and in winter, an abundant supply of good water, a cheerful outlook, a satisfactory weather exposure, and must be quiet and yet not too far removed from noisy transportation and from markets. The buildings must have, besides the necessary wards, sleeping accommodations (either in themselves or close at hand) for a personnel more than half as great as the expected patients, and also bathing, cooking, and laundry facilities sufficient for a hotel, isolation wards, a laboratory or pharmacy, solidly built operating rooms, and so on. And buildings that are to be converted into hospitals must have rooms that can be altered to meet these needs at reasonable expense.

A National Hospital Day will justify itself if it does no more than to inform the public that barns can not be converted into hospitals, and that at present even barns are by no means easy to come by.

(Signed) H. S. CUMMING,
Surgeon General.

Instructions looking to earnest cooperation in the celebration of the day have been sent to the officers in charge of all Public Health Service hospitals.

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION MOVES TO NEW YORK CITY.

The American Public Health Association, on May 1, 1921, removed its offices from Boston to New York, in order to promote closer cooperation with other national health agencies. A National Health Council was recently organized, embracing nine leading national agencies whose major functions relate to health. One of the first steps of the Council was to arrange for the renting of two floors of the Penn Terminal Building in New York City. This building is at 370 Seventh Avenue, adjoining the Pennsylvania Station. The following national health agencies will be housed there: American Social Hygiene Association, National Committee for Mental Hygiene, National Organization for Public Health Nursing, National Tuberculosis Association, American Public Health Association, Bureau of Social Hygiene, Child Health Organization of America, Maternity Center Association, New York Community Service, New York Diet Kitchen Association, and National Health Council.

The American Public Health Association and the other agencies which compose the National Health Council are thus entering upon a practical experiment in coordination. They will also cooperate in varying degrees in the use of a common library, multigraph, dictaphone, mailing, shipping, and similar services, which should result in increased efficiency and decreased expense.